92-01331/

"CHOICES"

A THREE-YEAR ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS SPOUSAL ASSAULT 1986-89

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT TO MARCH 1988

Northwest Territories Minister Responsible for Status of Women

October 1988

On behalf of the Ministerial Committee on Spousal Assault, I am pleased to submit the Second Annual Report in accordance with the directive given in **"Choices - A Three Year Action Plan to Address Spousal Assault"**.

The First Annual Report contained the responses from the various departments on the initiatives and directions undertaken in the first year of implementation of **"Choices"**. This second report covers the continuing progress of these various initiatives.

The Ministerial Committee, chaired by the Women's Secretariat, has the mandate to facilitate and monitor the implementation of **"Choices"**. The Committee continued to operate this year and each department represented has provided updates in their various areas of responsibility.

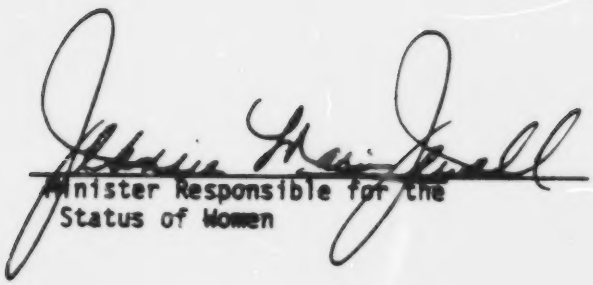
Community response and concerns with the issue of spousal assault continue to increase. They are also diversifying in terms of needs.

The problem is now recognized as being more than just spousal assault and includes elder abuse, child abuse and child sexual abuse. Needs are expanding to include second-stage housing, long term family counselling and the special needs of children of violent homes. Several initiatives have been undertaken and response from the communities has been both encouraging and demanding. Social Services continues to have the lead role and its initiatives are primarily through the **"Family Violence Prevention Program"**.

This year has seen the continuation of existing shelter programs and the development of new shelters. Two treatment programs for batterers are available and initial response has been both high and positive. Efforts to increase governmental support to communities have also been high; this is evidenced through the variety of workshops and training opportunities made available. The demand for these training opportunities continues to grow. Positive steps were taken in the area of public education and this year saw the continued production of both audio and visual materials that covered a wide variety of spousal assault issues.

Communities came together in March to participate in The Family Violence Conference. There was a high regional response to the conference and delegates discussed a number of formal topics as well as exchanging ideas and information on regional and local concerns. It was evident that growing community awareness has expanded to include local concerns as well as the broader issues of family violence. The opportunity to share information and to participate collectively in the discussion of family violence has resulted in more demand for services. It is expected that this demand will continue to rise.

During this, the last year of "Choices", planning for future initiatives will be undertaken. The progress and achievements of the last two years have provided for new awareness in all areas of family violence. New recommendations and strategies to meet increasing demands and growing awareness must be developed to respond to community initiatives. It is clear that the government's response and the implementation of "Choices" has been well received by the communities. Continuing attention by the government to the provision of resources addressing family violence issues is essential.



Minister Responsible for the
Status of Women

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RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROGRESS

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

1. Develop, produce (translate where possible) and distribute information/educational and public awareness materials, pamphlets, posters, handbooks, TV and radio spots. Materials are needed for the general public (awareness); spousal assault victims and offenders; community action groups; and volunteer workers; councils and schools; nurses, social workers; RCMP and court workers.

2. Provide information (posters, pamphlets) on rights of victims of spousal assault and assistance available to them. Be aware of current community resources available (such as safe shelter).

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Culture & Communications

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Resource Catalogue: A listing of audiovisual and print materials available on spousal assault. 2,000 copies distributed. English only. Nov. 86

Video Translation: "Village to Village", a program on community action made in Alaska. Translated into Chipeywan and South Slavey: distributed to groups. Nov. 86

TV Spots: a) 3-28 second and 1-58 second spots, English only. b) Translations to follow Spring '87. Feb. 87

Produce Radio Programs in Native Languages: a) Radio spots in English, Loucheux and Inuktitut have been produced. Spots in other Dene languages completed. b) Six fifteen-minute radio documentaries on spousal assault "Behind Closed Doors" have been produced. Broadcast on CBC Mackenzie/Inuvik, Dec. 8 & 16. Later in the Baffin. Tapes being made available to community radio stations, plus a printed transcript for adult education, resource centres, Health and Welfare and on request from other groups. Jan. 87.

Poster: "Spousal Assault Hurts Everyone-You Do Have A Choice": Two posters in English/Inuktitut/Chip/Dogrib/N. & S. Slavey. Sept. 86.

Co-operate With Other Agencies: a) Co-operated with SAFA on the translation of two booklets cn family violence. b) Providing information, advice and contacts to journalists from in and outside the NWT. c) Initiated with Women's Secretariat, Oct. 86, regular monthly meetings with people who work in the family violence field, for information sharing and mutual support. Completed.

Other Materials: a) Buttons: "BE PART OF THE ANSWER", 2,000 distributed. English only. Dec. 86. b) Folder for complete information package. 500 copies for distribution. Jan. 87.

Help For Battered Women and Men Pamphlet: Five regional editions, with appropriate phone numbers. Distributed to helping agencies in the NWT. The text was provided on audio tape in Loucheux, Inuvialuktun, N. Slavey, at the request of the regional executive in Inuvik. Nov. 86.

Produce Spousal Assault Newsletter: Produced quarterly: 1st edition Oct. 85, 2,000+ mailing list compiled. Translated into Inuktitut. Focus is on action being taken in communities, upcoming conferences, research results, government and community based initiatives. Oct. 85.

Drama Projects; Contracts made with Pond Inlet Theatre Group and Fort Franklin to produce plays on spousal assault. - Pond Inlet completed two plays and toured in four Baffin communities Dec. 86. - Fort Franklin's first performance in Jan. 87.

Other Print Materials: a) Booklet for people who are violent towards their spouses in production. English and three dialects of Inuktitut. b) Pamphlet about the effect of spousal assault on children in production. c) A newspaper filler (one column graphic with slogan) was produced. SAFA agreed to offer it to all newspapers in the NWT. d) Pamphlet on funding sources for community action is being developed.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

- Continued the public info campaign posters, pamphlets, buttons, radio announcements, newsletter, participation in conference on spousal assault.
- Public Service Announcement "It's Okay To Ask For Help".
- Developed and distributed pamphlet "Your Day In Court"
- Publish Spousal Assault Network newsletter
- Produced newspaper supplement "Spousal Assault is Everyone's Problem" for distribution with northern newspapers.
- Reprinted booklets (1) about effects of spousal assault on children (2) for people who are violent towards their spouses.
- Helped organize and fund territorial conference on Family Violence March 1988.
- Grant to Society Against Family Abuse for research.

3. Collect, catalogue and distribute information available throughout North America on spousal assault.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Women's Secretariat, GNWT Public Libraries.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Relevant films, training manuals, information on batterers programs, transition House/shelter/safe homes, cycle of violence, effects of violence on children, self-help groups and pamphlets gathered and mailed out to groups and individuals across the NWT. Oct. 85 - Ongoing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

. Continued activities of last year.
. Library services distributes materials on spousal assault to libraries in the NWT.
. CHOICES 1st Annual Report distributed.

4. Ensure that the published materials collected by the Task Force are catalogued and available through the library system.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Women's Secretariat, GNWT Public Libraries

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Copies of Task Force Report, "CHOICES" The 3-Year Action Plan to Address Spousal Assault, resource library catalogue on spousal assault and pertinent reports sent to libraries, schools and community groups. Jan. 86 - Ongoing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Completed.

5. Develop alcohol and drug awareness curriculum and family life curriculum for schools.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Health, Education

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

a) Kindergarten - Grade six introduced in NWT schools spring '86.
b) School Health Program will be mandatory and introduced in grades Kindergarten - nine, Sept. '87.
c) Procedures for reporting suspected child abuse and handbook developed for teachers.
d) One year school/community counsellor training program introduced Feb. '87 - Ongoing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Health: Completed developing Family Life Education materials. Major responsibility now with Education.

Education: a) and b) as for 1987 report. School Health Programs includes Alcohol & Drug Awareness and Family Life components. The Alberta High School Health Program Career and Life Management is offered in most High Schools and as of Fall 1988 is compulsory for high school graduation.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

6. That apparent victims of spousal assault be given immediate medical attention.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Health and Welfare Canada, Social Services.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Interagency Referral Protocol implemented. Pamphlets, posters and newsletters distributed through Culture/Communications to nursing stations, hospitals, health centres. Ongoing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Social Services - Ongoing.

Health - Ongoing

ACCESS TO OTHER ASSISTANCE

7. Lead the development of a coordinated interagency referral system, and include alcohol and drug workers.

8. Participate in an interagency approach to assist victims of spousal assault.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services, Health & Welfare Canada, RCMP, Health

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Protocol implemented. Varies from community to community as to how this implementation is carried out. Ongoing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Social Services - 7. Ongoing
8. Ongoing

RCMP - 7. Ongoing
8. Ongoing

Health - 7. Prime responsibility lies with Social Services. Health participate in interagency referral system where appropriate.
8. Protocol is developed - implemented. Ongoing.

9. Review requirements for social assistance and exercise flexibility and leniency for victims and families in transition. Provide social assistance for victims and families in transition.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Revised regulations ensure that this will be automatically if the family is in a crisis. Directive given April 1984. Coding and instructions for Financial Assistance for Safe Homes per diem rates implemented. Ongoing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Ongoing

10. Fund transportation costs of victims to shelters and day care costs, where necessary.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Transportation is provided as part of the above assistance if temporary location is required.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

. Transportation - Ongoing.

. Will fund day care costs if women are in the work force, going to school, in counselling treatment or has need of some child care for mental health reasons.

SHELTER AND PROTECTION

11. Assist victims in finding immediate safe shelter where needed.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

RCMP

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

RCMP prepared to comply with this approach through Policy Centre of Officer in Charge, Criminal Investigation Branch.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Ongoing

12. Give spousal assault victims priority for housing and day care, where required.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services, NWTHC

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

NWTHC reported that the local housing Authorities/Associations will work with Social Services to provide a home for victims of spousal assault. Social Services reports that there is not enough housing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Housing Corporation: The local Housing Associations/Authorities will work with Social Services to provide a home for victims of spousal assault through the over-accommodation of a family sponsored by the Department of Social Services or an approved society. However, this option has not been exercised by either the Department of Social Services or an approved society. Accommodations on a case-by-case basis appear to be a more viable means of providing transition accommodation than that of designating a specific family and unit within a community for that purpose.

The leasing of a unit as permanent accommodation for the purpose of transition accommodation remains unacceptable to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Social Services: Limited housing has restricted the extent of a coordinated response. One second stage unit has been secured for Hay River through liaison between the Corporation and Social Services. Over-accommodation continues as an option, however, has not to date, been utilized. This is partially due to limited housing space and security concerns for the resident.

13. Provide alternatives for shelter for spousal assault victims; fund new pilot shelters in communities demonstrating commitment, using existing buildings where possible.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Action on: 13 & 14: Should be temporary shelters, preferable if run by community based groups to ensure they meet community needs.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Social Services: New shelters have been established in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Spence Bay and Hay River, bringing the total up to eight operating shelters in the N.W.T. Although safe homes have continued to be an available option, they have not been utilized to a great extent. This is again due to limited space and security concerns for the resident. A number of training and support initiatives for shelter staff and members of community groups have been undertaken. These include:

- Guidelines and recommendations are available for some safe home options.
- Funds are available to non-profit groups for training workshops.
- All funded projects were given the opportunity to attend a three day conference on Family Violence held in Yellowknife, N.W.T.
- Representatives from each region were given the opportunity to attend a conference in London, Ontario entitled "Native Perspective on Family Violence".

14. Fund the operating costs of existing shelters. (Sappujjijit Friendship Centre in Rankin Inlet, Katimavik Centre in Cambridge Bay, YWCA in Yellowknife and the Crisis Centre in Fort Smith.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Social services has developed a policy which will look at various shelter options, including setting up new shelters and safe homes. a) Three Transition Homes funded this fiscal year. Iqaluit, Fort Smith and Yellowknife. b) 10 target communities for Safe Homes. Monthly retainer and per diem rates paid according to occupancy. c) Community-based Crisis Shelter established in Tuktoyaktuk.

Training will be offered to Safe Home operators, as well as Transition Home employees and volunteers. A proposal for devising a training package may be used in communities or funds may be available directly to groups.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Shelters Funded - total of eight for $992,620
Alison McAteer House, Yellowknife; Sutherland House, Fort Smith; Nutaraq's Place, Iqaluit; Hay River Women's Centre, Hay River; Tuktoyaktuk Crisis Shelter, Tuktoyaktuk; St. Michael's Crisis Shelter, Cambridge Bay; Spence Bay Crisis Shelter, Spence Bay; Rankin Inlet Shelter, Rankin Inlet.

15. Continue to provide physical protection to victims, consider all complaints as serious and advise victims that batterers should be prosecuted.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

RCMP

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

RCMP will comply with this approach through Policy Centre of the Officer in Charge.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Ongoing

COUNSELLING

16. Provide for professional Family Life Education Consultants to support victims of spousal assault, their families and offenders through training and advice to nurses, social workers, court workers, RCMP, community groups, volunteers lay counsellors, and schools.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Health (Family Life Education)

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

a) Three Family Life Education Consultants hired April '86. The program has a high profile with many requests coming in from communities. Presentations and workshops and have been held in 20 communities as of March 31/87. April 86 - Ongoing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

- The Coordinator and the three Family Life Education Consultants travelled extensively to many communities giving workshops and presentations, addressing concerns in the areas of Sexuality, Family Violence, AIDs and Child Sexual Abuse Prevention.
- The consultants worked very closely with nurses, social workers, teachers, students, youth groups, community groups and the general public.
- The Popular Education Method of giving workshops has been used with tremendous success at the community level and also at the Northern Conference on Family Violence in Yellowknife in March 1988.
- In this method community participants identify the problem, then working from their own experiences, deepen their understanding, identify resources and develop an action plan to resolve the problem.

- Facilitator training workshops have been given by the Family Life Education Consultants to people in a number of communities. This type of workshop provides the community with a firm base to continue action against Family Violence.
- At the Northern Conference on Family Violence, the Family Life Consultants were used as Educational Resource people to the delegates attending the conference.
- The Coordinator was a guest speaker on Child Sexual Abuse at the Inuit Women's Association Annual General Meeting held in Labrador, Quebec.
- The Coordinator and three consultants attended two Family Violence Conferences. They used this opportunity to gain knowledge and new skills for combatting Family Violence. This also provided an opportunity to liaise with other professionals in the field of Family Violence Prevention.
- Requests from a total of thirty-three northern communities for presentations and workshops have been fulfilled by the Family Life Education Consultants.
- Many individuals, community leaders, educators, professionals and families are expressing a continued interest in resolving the health and social problems impacting on the development of today's northern society.
- The Family Life Education Program has received excellent response from the communities for the work it has carried out and the three positions are now permanent.

17. Provide for crisis lines in conjunction with NorthwesTel on an regional community basis. Fund space, telephone installation, rental and long distance charges. (Line to be operated by trained volunteers)

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services, Health

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Not recommended. Duplication of service by Mental Health Association which has not proven effective.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Social Services: - no fully operational crisis lines in the NWT
- YWCA (YK) and Hay River Women's Centre have 24 hour phone service - receive calls at all hours on a variety of needs.
- eastern Arctic - no crisis lines.
- under review by the department and relevant community groups

Health: - Social Services has primary responsibility.

18. Extend counselling to victims provided by professionals by telephone.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services, Health

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Social Services established a 24hr. telephone number in every region. Published in the Network Newsletter.

a) ads have been placed in all Northern newspapers. b) brochures distributed outlining the Family Violence Prevention Program, outlining services available from the Department. c) press releases issued. d) press coverage of transition house openings. Ongoing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Social Services: - Ongoing

Health: - Provides support services e.g. psychiatric services.

DIRECTION & ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITY AGENCIES

19. Foster development of community action groups, volunteers to support victim and development of lay counsellors involving respected elders of communities.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Ten communities have requested funding for community-based programs. Nine have been funded to March 31/87, others pending. May 86 - Ongoing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

TREASURY RESOURCES:

FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICE - Sponsored by Inuvik Branch, N.W.T. Mental Health Association. Provides support group sessions and individual counselling to men who batter. Also provides counselling to victims of family violence. (104,800)

N.W.T. FAMILY COUNSELLING (Yellowknife) - Provides both individual and group session for men who batter and for victims of family violence (partial year funding). (35,000)

SUB TOTAL (139,800)

OTHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM - Sponsored by Zhahti Koe Friendship Centre, in Fort Providence. Employs two counsellors to provide counselling and victim support services.

(44,000)

2. RAE WOMEN'S GROUP - Employes two part-time counsellors to provide victim support and coordinate a safe home network.

(13,420)

3. S.A.F.A. (Yellowknife)- Series of training workshops for professional, semi-professional and lay counsellors.

(17,000)

4. FORT SIMPSON DENE BAND - Training workshop for representatives of service agencies.

(3,950)

5. BAKER LAKE HOSPICE SOCIETY - Provision of safe homes for victims in need and for training.

(3,116)

6. DENE NATION - Workshop in Fort Resolution on family awareness.

(3,980)

7. Y.W.C.A. (Yellowknife) - Host of the family violence conference "The Next Step", March 88.

(121,487)

Training workshop for shelter staff - Held in Yellowknife, March 1988.

(10,000)

8. B.A.S.H. (Iqaluit) - Informal group sessions for men who batter as well as for victims of violence.

(7,240)

9. UNCLE GABE'S FRIENDSHIP CENTRE - Training workshop on family violence for alcohol workers and shelter staff in Fort Smith.

(4,443)

10. B.R.I.A. (Iqaluit) - Conference on social issues in the Baffin.

(39,772)

11. WRIGLEY BAND - Employs one worker in the social issues area.

(16,000)

12. ST. DAVID'S ANGLICAN CHURCH (Fort Simpson) - Provision of a safe home for victims in need.

(1,100)

SUBTOTAL (285,508)

TOTAL (1,417,928)

TREATMENT AND ASSISTANCE FOR BATTERERS

20. Review legal aid plan to permit legal aid defence counsel to assist clients (batterers) get treatment and counselling.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Completed where batterers programs are available. Initiated by community groups: Two batterers' programs started: Cambridge Bay Oct. 86 and Inuvik Jan. 87.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

No direct response to this item.

21. Assess needs of convicted batterers for rehabilitation. Provide anger control therapy and counselling services. Consider anger control therapy as a sentencing option.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

The Department is seeking research before implementing programs.
- research to analyze and interpret viability of such programs;
- needs assessment study;
- design of programs for implementation through the correctional system and community based methods.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

The Department has funded two men's programs in the Territories, Yellowknife and Inuvik. Both are active in counselling men who batter as well as providing support group sessions. Statistics to date show both programs are well utilized. Interest by individual communities in this area show that additional program development will be required.

DIRECTION & SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT AGENTS/SOCIAL WORKERS

22. Develop departmental policy and procedures for providing services to spousal assault victims and families, ensuring coordination with other agencies involved.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Social Services is developing a policy to ensure that victims/families receive a consistent level of assistance across NWT. Interdepartmental Committee on Spousal Assault established to coordinate development of procedures, methods and information. Meets monthly. In place.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

In addition to protocols encouraging various agencies to connect with each other, a protocol for management of spousal assault cases by Social Workers has been developed and distributed to all Regional Social Services Offices.

23. Clarify social workers' duties and responsibilities under present law, and develop in-service training workshops to prepare workers for spousal assault cases.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Social Services

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Protocol outlining the role of social service workers in connection with other agencies has been developed. Crisis case management courses offered. Two - One week sessions last fall and winter on spousal assault, child sexual assault, alcohol & drugs and suicides were delivered. Updated training information and resource material distributed to field staff.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Social Services: - crisis case management courses continued to be implemented.

24. Enhance Social Worker Program at Thebacha College to include training in family violence cases.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Education, Social Services, Health

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Department of Education reports that the Social Worker Program is a Two year course. 20-25% of it addresses family violence. Three main social problems identified are alcohol related problems, spousal assault and child abuse. During training, they may be assigned to work in a Transition Home.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Social Services: no comment
Health: serve as resource to program development upon request

Education: Arctic College offers two programs that deal extensively with various aspects of family violence - Social Service Program at [redacted] Campus and Human Services program at Iqaluit Campus. [redacted] emphasize training students to deal with family violence. Iq[redacted] Campus includes two courses on drug and alcohol abuse and other courses related to family violence. Thebacha Campus has strengthened existing courses to include Family Dynamics, Sociology, Adult Development and Social Work Methodology. As well, more students are doing their practicum in Spousal Assault Centres.

25. Give priority to native social workers who apply for education leave or assistance to improve their qualifications.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Education

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Native social workers do receive first priority in receiving educational leave. Two native social workers are currently on educational leave 86-87. Eight are taking the in-service social worker training program. On-going.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Total of 22 person years are devoted to native people pursuing either a diploma or degree in social work in the In-Service Training Program. This represents 22% of the entire resources of the program. In the Education Leave program, 10% of 44 recipients are native people enrolled in Social Work. Department of Social Services actively works to encourage staff to pursue higher education.

MEDICAL CARE PROFESSIONALS

26. Develop procedures and protocols for the management and documentation of spousal assault cases.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Health and Welfare (Medical Services), Justice Canada, RCMP, Health

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

The Intergovernmental Medical Legal Committee has formulated guidelines for interagency referral; a Dept. of Health committee has designed forms to document all spousal assault cases presented for medical care, even those where the RCMP are not called in, so a pattern of assault can be clearly seen in a patient's chart. Stanton Hospital has approved a policy and protocol for use of these forms; evaluated after a three month trial.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Social Services: Procedures and protocols are in place and continue to function.
Health: protocols in place. Ongoing. Evaluation is not yet completed.
RCMP: procedures and protocols in place. Ongoing.

AGENTS OF THE LAW JUDGES/PROSECUTORS

27. That the Commissioner of the NWT and the Federal Minister of Justice consider appointment of women to judicial office and assignment of women to positions as crown prosecutors.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice Canada, Justice

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

a) For judicial appointments, recognize its direction to go, but doubt that it will be formalized. b) For Crown counsel assignments, this has been implemented.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

No comment

28. When dealing with applications for peace bonds, bail review and sentencing of batterers, note the right of victims to remain in their own homes and communities.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice Canada

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Policy implemented.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

No comment

29. Hold judicial interim release hearings in appropriate spousal assault cases.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice Canada, Justice

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Not reported

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Justice Canada: being done.

Justice: no direct response.

30. Consider whether sentences act as a general deterrent to the public or a specific deterrent to the individual.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice Canada, Justice

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Crown Counsel do hold judicial interim release hearings in appropriate cases, recognizing the objectives to be served, including protection of the victim.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Justice Canada: very difficult to determine if sentences act as a deterrent.

Justice: There is now a national review of sentencing underway. Is a federal not a Territorial, concern.

31. Allow prosecutors and judges to spend more time in communities.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice Canada

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

This is being done within the limitations of the resources of the Federal Government. Deputy judges and extra circuits are being added.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Continue to seek ways to allow prosecutors and judges to spend more time in communities.

32. Ensure that crown prosecutors have been trained for spousal assault cases and that they consult with professionals and the community when determining whether to lay a charge in a spousal assault case and that, where prosecutors have special interests and aptitudes, spousal assault cases be assigned to them.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice Canada

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

They attend seminars. To the extent possible this is presently being done.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

. consult with professionals in communities whenever possible.
. resources in some communities are very scarce.
. no specialized training available for prosecutors.
. crown prosecutors are bound by policy directives re: laying of charges.

33. Provide training for prosecutors in the NWT.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice Canada

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

To the extent possilbe, this is presently being done.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

No specialized training available.

COURT WORKERS

34. Provide for professional or lay advocates to advise victims and provide support during court proceedings.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

No comments made.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Is being done as part of the service the Courtworkers provide to their clients.

35. Provide for court workers to respond to victims' enquiries and consider enhancing duties of court workers to include acting as an intermediary and advocate for victims.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Native court workers advise victims about Court procedures. If asked they will tell victims when they need to go to Court. Victims will be referred to relevant support agencies including safe houses, family counselling, social services, legal aid. Refer victims to the Crown prior to the court date if the victim wants to speak to the prosecutor, give advice about peace bonds, restraining orders, separation agreements. Involved with transition houses and speaking to counsellors.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Ongoing.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

36. Review legislation and prepare a draft ordinance on spousal assault.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Assault is an offence under the Federal Criminal Code and not within the jurisdiction of the NWT. Justice Canada is ready, willing and able to consult if deemed appropriate by Territorial Justice.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Justice has begun an initiative on Family Law Reform. This will be a two year undertaking.

37. Review and consider amending Mental Health Ordinance (through consultation) to permit batterers with suspected psychological problems to be committed for mental examination.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

Justice, Health

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Completed

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Justice: no direct response.

Health: do not intend to amend the Mental Health Act.

POLICING ISSUES

38. That the Commissioner of the RCMP consider assignment of women to "G" division positions in the RCMP.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

RCMP

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Women members have been and are serving in the NWT

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

There are 13 women currently in "G" positions in the RCMP. The distribution is as follows: three in Operational communication; one in Iqaluit; one in Holman Island (she will be in charge of the detachment October 1, 1988); three in Inuvik; two in Yellowknife; three in Hay River (plus one special constable). Of the 13, three are civil members, one is a Special Constable, and 10 are regular constables.

39. Explore diversion for batterers who might otherwise be prosecuted in courts where appropriate.

40. Review the policy allowing RCMP to lay charges in spousal assault cases and continue to lay charges in as many cases as possible.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

RCMP

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

The policy requiring the RCMP to lay charges has heightened awareness of the seriousness of spousal assault and put the discretion to proceed in its proper place: with the Crown prosecutors.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

RCMP: met with Family Counselling re: Batterer's Programs. Will continue to explore the benefits of diversion. May be beneficial under the following circumstances: if there are insufficient grounds to lay charges, if the crown withdraws for whatever reason, or as part of a court-imposed sentence.

41. Consult with other professionals in the community in spousal assault cases.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

RCMP

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

RCMP have agreed to this and support the Interagency Referral System.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Will connect to #7, #8
Continuing and ongoing.

42. Provide special training to recruits and In-Service Training on spousal assault investigation and case preparation.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

RCMP

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Training in domestic disputes/violence/child abuse has been ongoing since the mid '70's in Regina and Ottawa. Special constables receive 15 weeks, and then six months field training. Ongoing.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Same. Ongoing. Recruit training is done at the Depot in Regina. There have been workshops delivered to Detachment Officers in charge and four work planning sessions (includes case preparation) in various detachments.

43. Take statements from household members witnessing spousal assault.

DEPARTMENT(S) RESPONSIBLE

RCMP

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1987

Investigations into complaints of assault are conducted and charges laid according to RCMP policy when supported by evidence, which includes household statements.

PROGRESS TO MARCH 1988

Ongoing.